

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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SPRINGERTON MAN SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN METHAMPHETAMINE MANUFACTURING CONSPIRACY

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced that **MARK E. MALONE**, age 35, of Springerton, Illinois, was sentenced today in United States District Court in Benton to term of 188 months imprisonment for conspiring to manufacture and distribute in excess of 500 grams of methamphetamine in and around White and Wayne Counties between 2000 and April 2006. MALONE was also ordered to pay a fine of \$500 and a special assessment of \$100 and was placed on a term of supervised release of 5 years to follow his incarceration.

MALONE was charged with that offense by a Grand Jury on April 18, 2006, and pled guilty on October 2, 2006.

Under Federal law, parole has been abolished and defendants are required to serve at least 85 percent of their sentences.

Previously, on September 18, 2006, MALONE'S co-defendant was sentenced to a term of 87 months for her role in the conspiracy.

The on-going investigation into the case is being led by the Carmi office of the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force, with the assistance of the Illinois State Police, the Fairfield Police Department, the Carmi Police Department, the White County Sheriff's Department, the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Wayne County State's Attorney's Office, the White County State's Attorney's Office, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James M. Cutchin.